



AP Photo

Rural mail carrier August Sutter, 83, of Harvel, Ill., delivers mail near Raymond, Ill., in early January. Sutter has served as mail carrier for 64 years, a record for the U.S. Postal Service.

Nation's longest-serving mail carrier retires after 64 years on the job

Herald 2-1-93

By CHRISTOPHER WILLS
Associated Press Writer

HARVEL, Ill. — You can't call August Sutter impulsive. He has, after all, delivered mail along the same country roads for 64 years and lived in the same house 73 years.

So when the nation's longest-serving mail carrier decides to retire, you know he's thought it over carefully.

"I would continue to carry mail, only my wife isn't too well. Time to be home with her, spending our last few years together," the 83-year-old says with a country twang.

Today is Sutter's last day on the job.

He loves his work, loves to talk about the early days in an unheated Model-T or, when the roads were bad, on horseback. He dismisses the length of his career with a brief "I was well-satisfied" but lingers over the intricacies of mail processing.

He has seen plenty of changes

since he became a rural mail carrier back in 1929. Roads improved, cars improved, postmasters came and went, stamps grew more expensive, mail trains vanished and computers appeared.

Apparently only one other postal worker — a window clerk — has been on the job longer than Sutter, and only by a few months, says Postal Service spokeswoman Debra Hawkins. Among mail carriers, Sutter leads the pack.

"He's seen about everything a person could see," says Robert Herman, Sutter's postmaster in the small central Illinois town of Raymond. "It just makes the office a little better having him here."

Three local carriers have a chance to claim Sutter's route, Herman says. The three together have a little better than half Sutter's experience.

What keeps him on the road?

At first, it was just the work, he says. During the Depression, you didn't turn your back on a

good job. But that is only part of the answer.

"The big point is, you're on your own, nobody looking over your shoulder," he says. "You're out there with nature. You watch them put in the crops, see them come up and grow and harvest."

And there's the people.

"You know all your patrons," he says, sitting in his den decorated with family photos and plaques commemorating his years of service. "As they come to the mailbox, why, you get acquainted with them. I give all the kids gum, you know."

He put about a million miles on his five cars as he crept from mailbox to mailbox during the morning hours. Sutter's first route was 31 miles and he was paid \$2,010 a year, with a 5-cents-a-mile travel allowance. The route has expanded to 80 miles, and the pay has climbed to about \$25,000 and 34.5 cents a mile.

After establishing a claim, a miner can get outright ownership — patent — with proof that a valuable deposit exists and \$500 worth of work has been done.

Through patenting, federal land is available for between \$2.50 and \$5 per acre. Bumpers said that since 1987 alone, the government has given away \$94 billion worth of land.

In a speech on the Senate floor, Bumpers used a Montana mining company as an example of how the private sector takes advantage of the law.

"Four days after I narrowly lost a vote on mining reform in 1990, the Stillwater Mining Co. applied for 25 patents covering 2,036 acres of federal land," he said.

"If they receive that patent, they will pay the whopping sum of \$10,180 for both the land and the \$32 billion in platinum and palladium that lies under it."

money management seminar

OREM — Utah Valley Community College's division of continuing education will be hosting a money management seminar which will discuss how to lower taxes, lower insurance costs, plan investments and retire financially independent.

Session one will consist of discussions titled "Your Foundations for Financial Independence" and "Putting Your Dollars to Work (continued)," "Understanding College Funding for Your Children," "Retirement Planning," "Understanding the True Nature of Debt," and "How to Get Out of Debt."

Retirement planning, risk management and estate planning will be discussed in the third and last

session.

The three-part seminar is offered at two different times; either once a week for three weeks on Wednesdays or once a week for three weeks on Thursdays. Wednesday sessions will be held in the Student Center room 117 on the Orem campus, on Feb. 3, 10 and 17 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday sessions will be held in the Science Building room 102, Orem campus, on Feb. 11, 18, 25, from 6-9 p.m.

Registration fee is \$69 per individual or couple, with a money-back guarantee offered if participants do not find the seminar worthwhile.

For more information regarding the seminar or registration, call Chris Bird at 222-8000 ext. 8495.

Calendar

therapists can handle most common cases of marital difficulty and p.m. and Friday from 8 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the Comprehensive Clinic at 378-7759.

Women's cancer screening

The Cancer and Screening Prevention Program, Utah State Department of Health, in cooperation with the American Cancer Society and participating health departments, will provide cancer screening clinics for women as in the following schedule:

Feb. 3, 12 p.m. to 6 p.m., Manti Stake Center, phone 835-2231.

Feb. 4, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Gunnison Stake Center, phone 528-7810.

The clinics will include a Pap smear, pelvic and breast examinations, blood pressure check, hemocult kits to test for colorectal cancer, health education information on risk factors, signs and symptoms of cancer and referral for appropriate medical follow-up. A mammogram is not provided. The examinations are given by specially trained registered nurses.

All women 18 years of age or older, or who are sexually active, who have not had a Pap test during the past year are encouraged to attend.

A fee ranging from \$5 to \$25 will be charged, based on annual family income and family size. Appointments are necessary.

Although these clinics are being held in church buildings, they are for all women, regardless of religious affiliations.

Defensive driving course

The Utah Safety Council will offer a defensive driving course beginning today and Saturday. Recognize hazards, understand the appropriate defense, and act correctly in time — in bad weather, on country roads, on rush-hour expressways, on urban sidestreets, with pedestrian, with cyclists and with fixed objects.

Drivers who successfully complete the course receive a 50 point reduction off their Utah driving record, one time during any three year period. Individuals 55 years of age and older may qualify for insurance discounts after completing the course.

Enroll in the eight hour defensive driving held at UVCC (Provo Campus), Room SW 217, 1395 North University Avenue. Preregistration is required. For information, call 1-800-933-5943. The registration fee is \$20 per person, \$7 for drivers over age 55.

Thursday

Law Society auction

The second annual service auction to benefit the Public Interest Law Society scholarship fund will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the Moot Court Room (Room 303) at the J. Reuben Clark Law School on the BYU campus.

The items to be auctioned off will be varied and hopefully will include such things as trips and sports items from the BYU alumni.

The Public Interest Law Society is a student organization dedicated to work in the public interest. The organization encourages students to work for the benefit of society as a whole in fields such as environmental law, consumer protection, guardian ad litem, and legal services for the poor or elderly.

The scholarship fund is designed to help those students who are involved in such areas. The national organization, the National Association for Public Interest Law (NAPIL) will match whatever funds are raised during this auction.

Piano seminar

Free seminar from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the East Bay Inn, 1292 S. University, Provo. Learn how the professional Chord System can have you playing the piano quickly and well. For more information, call 375-3533.

Creekside support group

Creekside Home Health Care will sponsor its monthly support group meeting at the Eldred Senior Citizens Center, 270 West 500 North, Provo. Entitled "Coping With the Confused Patient," the session is conducted under the direction of a social worker and registered nurse. The support group is free and open to the public and directed to those caring for an ill or disabled family member at home.

For more information, call 377-8900.

UVCC lecture

Malan Jackson, director of International Studies at UVCC will discuss "China, its History and its People," from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in UVCC Student Ballroom, Student Center.

Jackson has a master's degree from the University of California Berkeley, in Chinese language and history. He traveled and lived 20 years in Asia and China while engaged in business, research and missionary work. He has also worked for the Government in Washington D.C. consulting on Asian Issues.

The public is invited. Cost \$3. Members \$2.

Maturation program

A maturation program for the 5th grade boys and girls at the Wilson Elementary School will be today at 12:30 at the school. Jane Wise, school nurse, will instruct the girls and Lynn Mecham, teacher, will instruct the boys. Parents are invited to come to school to view the program with their child.

A parental preview of the programs will be held at Wilson School on Mon. Feb. 1 at 3:30 p.m. Programs have been approved by the Nebo School District Maturation Committee and the Nebo Board of Education.

\$1,500,000.00

U.S. Postal Service affixes special stamp to Christmas

25 Dec 1992
Mail carrier in Santa garb makes express deliveries to 3 Utah County cities.

By Brooke Adams

Deseret News staff writer

AMERICAN FORK — Santa gave up his sleigh for a U.S. Postal Service truck Christmas Day to make several dozen last-minute deliveries.

It's the second year that Santa, aka postal employee Marvin Wheeler, has made Express Mail deliveries to residents of American Fork, Highland and Alpine on Dec. 25.

"Our postmaster here (Ken Jorgenson) really wanted to do something for the public," Wheeler said. "He really enjoys having fun and cares about the public."

Santa donned his traditional red, white and black suit, checked his list twice and fishtailed out of the parking lot at the American Fork Post Office about 8 a.m.

Tucked in his big, red pack were

as many as 30 packages and letters destined for lucky residents. Last year, a husband asked Santa to deliver an envelope stuffed with money to his wife.

"She was in tears," Wheeler said.

In 1991, Santa delivered candy, a book and flowers to high school student Greg Robinson from "three of Santa's helpers." Santa kept mum about what was in his pack this year.

Residents are shocked and delighted when Santa appears at their doors Christmas morning, Wheeler said.

"They think he's already delivered everything the night before."

Santa also causes a stir as he jaunts along the freeway and city streets en route to drop off presents.

"When people see the mail truck and old Santa driving, they just go nuts," Wheeler said. "Everyone honks and waves. Little kids don't expect to see Santa on the freeway. Their dads hit the brakes and slow down so the kids can wave to Santa. I love it. It's a blast."



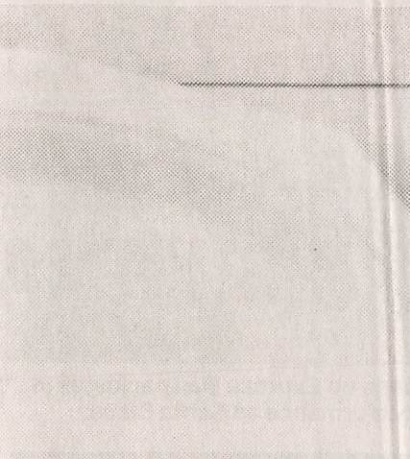
STUART W. JOHNSON, DESERET NEWS

Postal employee Marvin Wheeler loads up Express Mail packages in preparation for his second annual performance as Santa Claus.



Christmas Sale

n for these year-end savings



U.S. Postal Service goes beyond the call of duty to deliver letter

Early Nov 1992

PROVO (AP) — Barry Sanders isn't one to turn down a challenge — especially when it makes his job as graveyard supervisor at the U.S. Postal Service's East Bay facility in Provo a little less routine.

His challenge came in the form of a letter written from Canada by Drew Walters. It was mailed Oct. 6 to his former Mormon seminary teacher, Lois Schaalje.

There was just one problem. Walters didn't have the slightest idea what her address was. But he did the best he could.

On the front of the envelope Walters wrote Schaalje's name. Underneath that he wrote as many clues as he could to help the Postal Service track her down.

The address read: "Lois Schaalje I don't know her address but her husband's name is Bruce Schaalje. She's LDS. And I think is going to BYU. So they probably live near there. They drive a blue and brown station wagon. They have a son named Jared. They're probably in the

phone book and their address will be there. If you can't find it send this back. Provo, Utah, U.S.A."

Somewhere between Canada and Provo an anonymous but thoughtful postal worker looked up Provo's ZIP code and wrote it across the top of the letter. Walter's letter began winging its way to Schaalje.

On Oct. 23 the letter landed on Sanders's desk.

"It's got BYU in it and Provo, Utah," he said. This won't be so tough. He reached for the telephone book.

But Schaalje and her husband, a statistics professor at Brigham Young University, moved from Lethbridge, Canada, to Provo three months ago. They aren't in the local directory.

So Sanders stepped up his sleuthing. He figured the name Schaalje might be in the BYU directory. Nope. The current directory hasn't been printed yet.

Undaunted, he called BYU information. Lois Schaalje isn't attending BYU, but the operator found her husband's name and

yes their current address, which happens to be in nearby Orem, not Provo.

Sanders slapped a happy face sticker with "Hi, happy we found you" on the letter, wrote the correct address across the front and sent it to the Orem Post Office. Lois Schaalje received it Wednesday.

"It really wasn't all that challenging with the idea they were related to BYU," Sanders said. However, "we prefer that everybody, put a nine-digit ZIP code" on their letters.

Schaalje laughed as she read the envelope.

"I found this most amusing," she said.

Her grandfather worked for the Postal Service in North Carolina and taught her the importance of using a proper address, she says.

Schaalje cried when she read the letter inside. Walters, 16, wrote a long missive describing a change of heart he'd undergone since her seminary class and apologized for his classroom antics.

The Utah County caucus has always been a very cohesive unit and worked hard for many issues. I'm sure that will continue. We'll try to make things happen," Fox said.

Lowell Nelson received 6,287 votes to win his first term in the District 58 seat. District 58 and 59 are new this election due to recent boundary changes. His opponent, Christine Robinson got 2,723 votes.

Nelson said he was pleased with the way his campaign turned out but complimented Robinson for running. The two candidates were only able to debate once during the race due to Robinson's work schedule.

"We'll do our best to represent people in that area and of course, Utah County," Nelson added.

In addition to Moran, other unopposed candidates who retained their positions included John Valentine, Norman Nielsen, Jeff Alexander, Jordan Tanner and Bill Wright.

Although the record number of absentee ballots for the county have not yet been counted, none of the House races should be impact-

By SHEILA SANCHEZ

Herald Staff Writer

PROVO — Republicans were the big winners in Tuesday's Utah Senate elections for Utah County.

In District 4, Republican Howard Stephenson beat Democrat Steven S. Kesler by a landslide, receiving more than 5,682 votes over Kesler who gathered 2,713 votes.

District 4 is new and was created in the redistricting process.

With 150 precincts reporting, in District 14, Incumbent Republican Craig Peterson won by a large margin over Democrat H. K. Pang.

Peterson received 18,405 votes and Pang 5,281. Peterson, who has served in the House of Representatives and one term in the Senate, is involved in educational issues.

In declaring victory, Peterson said he will continue to work for the citizens of Utah County pushing to meet the higher educational needs of students in Utah Valley.

Peterson also said he will continue to be a children's advocate and will represent the interests of consumers and their rights.

"I wasn't sure I was going to



Howard Stephenson



Craig Peterson

win. You never are sure. I have a lot of respect for my opponent," Peterson said.

In District 16, Republican Chuck Stewart beat Democrat Gai Stringham handily. Stewart will occupy retiring C.E. "Chuck" Peterson's seat.

Stewart received 16,615 votes and Stringham only 4,540 votes.

Stewart, who is a local physician, ran on a campaign emphasizing the preservation of Utah's values and the improvement of educational opportunities.

Stewart said the campaign was difficult and taught him a lot about the political process. The candidate was surprised by the power special interest groups have over the government.

Teasdale surprising winner in Provo

By KAYLENE NELSEN
Herald Senior Reporter

PROVO — A woman who



Teasdale said she had not done any campaigning. "I didn't think I'd win this. I was surprised."